6. The scheme of mobile claims offices has been reactivated on Zonal Railways to entertain and settle claims on the spot at important cities.

7. Prior account check has been dispensed with for satisfaction of court decree in respect of all types of claims cases.

8. Full powers have been delegated to GMs for settling time-barred cases. Earlier cases beyond Rs. 50,000/- were required to be approved by Railway Board.

9. Instructions have been issued to Zonal Railways for empowering ACM in the Divisions to settle claims cases upto Rs. 8000 per case with a view to provide better after sales service to the customers.

II. Preventive steps to contain pilferage and other losses

1. Escorting of goods trains by Railway Protection Force and armed personnel on vulnerable sections.

2. Insistence on provision of dunnage to protect flap doors where required in case, for instance, of wagon-load consignments of sugar, grains and pulses and oilseeds.

3. Proper marking and labelling of packages to avoid their loss/over carriage.

4. Use of metal tape on wagons to avoid mis-despatches and prevent them from becoming unconnected.

5. Claim prevention drives are being ordered from time to time.

Setting up of terminals by private entrepreneurs

3843. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that private entrepreneurs are being encouraged to set up terminals/warehousing facilities;

(b) if so, how many such warehouses have come up alongwith the details of such warehouses coming up; and

(c) the details of the conditions governing the aforesaid private warehousing scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pilot project is under operation since February, 2002 with Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) at Whitefield, Bangalore. In this direction a step further has been taken to have a Memorandum of Understanding with CWC for the development of warehousing complexes at different railhead terminals.

(c) Setting up of warehousing complexes is on the basis of leasing terms and revenue sharing.

Security arrangements at railway stations in Mumbai

3844. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways propose to provide special security arrangements at the local railway stations in Mumbai in view of the spurt of terrorist violence in the local trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the details of present security arrangements at the local railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) "Policing" being a State subject, prevention and detection of crime on Railways including running trains, is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments. The cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police (GRP).

Though the responsibility to curb crime on Railways lie with the State Governments, the Railways have taken the following steps to supplement the efforts of the State Governments :

1. Anti-social elements are being removed from Railway premises and trains by RPF.
2. Coach Attendants/TTEs keep proper watch on the passengers' entering/detraining from the coaches.
3. FIR forms are made available with the Train Guards/Station Masters/ RPF to facilitate the travelling public to lodge their reports immediately.